# The Planters' Chronicle.

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JULY 26, 1913

[PRICE As. 8.

## THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED)

#### Contents.

Mr. Jonas. Scientific Assistant, Coorg, has arrived at Headquarters, and will probably remain in Bangalore for the next three weeks. He is occupied in laboratory work.

Pressure of space has prevented the continuation of the interesting paper on Rubber, read by Mr. Baxendale, in this week's issue, but we hope to continue it next week.

To the Weekly Times of Ceylon, we are indebted for a valuable contribution on the subject of Dynamite in Planting. More light is gradually being thrown in this subject more especially on the point of cost per acre.

. Our correspondence columns are fuller than usual of matters interesting to the Planting Community, and the subjects mentioned in the various letters are sure to come up for serious discussion at the next annual meeting, which is fast approaching. Though all the letters are interesting, the Editor considers that written by South India as the most important and deserving of special attention by all planters, for the subject matter of it is bound to receive the serious attention of the delegates at the coming conference.

The interview with Mr. Petch, as taken from the Times of Ccylon should prove interesting to all Tea and Rubber Planters.

For the Coffee Planting Community, we publish a short history of coffee taken from the Produce Markets' Review, from its first introduction.

The Chairman has written to the Secretary and asked him to let it be known, that the postal deliverles round Meppadi have been disorganised through the illness of the Postmaster, and consequently some unavoidable delay has taken place in receiving and answering letters. This especially applies to Telegrams and registered letters that may have been addressed to him.

To all those who have kindly consented to support the coming Exhibition, the Secretary through the Editor, wishes it to be known that samples of different products should not exceed one pound each, packed either in lead lined packets, or wooden boxes. As we hope to have a tasting competition, these samples should be dawn from Invoice samples.

## DYNAMITE IN PLANTING.

#### Demonstration at Matale.

Mr. Thos. J. Doolan, representative of Nobel's Hamburg Explosives Co., Ltd., gave a demonstration in the use of dynamite as aid to planting on Wariapola Estate, Matale, on Sunday and Monday, in the presence of Mr. J. A. M. Bond, the Superintendent, and a number of planters from the surrounding country. Mr. Doolan took a rubber section of about 14 acres. in which he put down 100 holes of an average depth of 21 inches each in 20 minutes' time with three coolies at the work. The charge used was half a plug of Nobel's Hamburg dynamite No. 1 for each hole, which worked out at 10 cents a hole, or Rs.10 per acre. The time occupied in putting down the holes, making and preparing the charges, charging the holes and the firing, until the last charge went off, was two hours. The ground, which was an unplanted section of the rubber plantation, was a fairly hard gravelly loans. Mr. Doolan also blew off a tree stump, about 2 feet in diameter, using four cartridges, which cost 50 cents. He also blasted several rocks, and one large boulder of about 25 tons at a cost of 75 cents, without any drilling. The boulders were completely shattered, and the spectators were surprised at the result. An important matter was also the destruction of ant-hills. Some enormous ones were completely shattered. One termite hill 6 feet high and wide in proportion was destroyed at a cost of about 25 cents. The explosion besides shattering the ant-hill also killed the greater part of the insect inhabitants. Mr. Doolan says that it will be an absolute waste to use full cartridges for sub-soiling, breaking hard pan, and digging holes for tree planting. Half a cartridge, or one-third of one, according to conditions obtaining, is quite ample.

#### An Estimate of Cost.

Mr. Doolan has worked out an estimate of cost of blasting with Nobel's Hamburg dynamite, which is interesting for purposes of reference. A case of dynamite cartridges weighing 25 lbs. and containing 200 cartridges 25 inch in diameter would cost about Rs. 24, equivalent to 12 cents per cartridge. Detonators cost Rs.19'50 a thousand, practically 2 cents each, and the fuse costs about a cent a foot. For general work, half a cartridge costs 6 cents, detonator 2 cents, and 2 feet of fuse 2 cents, making a total of 10 cents per hole. To this has to be added the cost of cooly labour, which works out at a cent a hole, so that the total cost of a hole is 11 cents. Of course the advantages in labour saving and ensuring the best growth and better yields through planting in dynamited ground are considerable—advantoges which are now well known.

#### IN TEA PLANTING.

In the matter of tea planting, where a large number of plants go down to the acre, Mr. Doolan recommends placing one third of a cartridge 12 feet apart in any direction, which would be quite ample. There is no necessite states, to blow out a hole for each tea plant, but the dynamiting of the land in the manner just stated, was all that was required. In the matter of tea planting the cost would be small, one-third of a cartridge working out at 4 cents, the detonator at 2 cents, and 15 inches of fuse at one cent, making a total of 7 cents for each charge placed 12 feet apart.—The Weekly Times of Coylon.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Government of India, Legislative Department.

From

The Hon'ble Sir W. H. H. Vincent, Kt.,

Secretary to the Government of India.

Legislative Department.

To

The Secretary,

United Planters' Association of Southern India.

Simla, the 16th July, 1913.

Sir,—In reply to your letter dated the 25th June, 1913, I am directed to inform you that it is proposed to introduce a Bill for the Prevention of the Introduction of Pests and Diseases into India in the Council of the Governor-General during the next autumn sessions. A copy will be sent to to you after its introduction.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Your obedient Servant.

(Signed) W. H. VINCENT,

Secretary to the Government of India.

Hallery, Mercara P. & T. O., N. Coorg.

July 17th, 1913.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—This letter is intended as an attempt to stir up the Planting Community to demand the rebates paid by the shipping companies on freight from the Malabar Coast.

At present I understand that a thing called the "Malabar Coast Chartering coalition" takes the rebates and this is but another name for the Curing Firms themselves. If this statement is not correct I have been misinformed, and am prepared to withdraw it.

In any case the Planter pays the freight and is entitled to any rebate thereon.

There is a letter extant, dated in 1894, to the Secretary, U. P. A. on a kindred matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) JOHN A. GRAHAM.

#### North Mysore Association-

Dear Sir, --With reference to the report of this Association's Third Quarterly Meeting held on June 3rd at Balehonur.

"Madras Act No. I of 1903—Mr. Danvers' proposal is reported as Carried unanimously. Owners and managers on leave reading this report would naturally suppose that all those present at the Meeting voted in favour of the proposal—this was not the case.

As I have been asked why I voted for the proposal, I beg to state that I was one of those who did not vote for or against, my reasons being

- (1.) I had no instructions from absent owners and managers I was representing.
  - (2.) Proposal was not on Agenda.

Yours faithfully, (Signed) R. G. FOSTER,

Dear Sir,—I consider the subject on which I write will be the better for airing.

Two days since I had Lists of Manures from 2 separate S. Indian Firms: but they've both omitted any Prices. A new thing. It seems to me they are asking for correspondence with the planter, and few planters find correspondence with Agents a profitable employment.

Fertilising Mixtures, which I can only conclude cover any possible rise of Prices in the ingredients: however good they may be. This novelty was not produced for the Planters' good—certainly not. Added to this the harmless pastime of making our own mixtures for our own pockets has been taken away.

I trust some of your readers with the Business brains, or else yourself, will offer an explanation; for myself I admit.

I am,

STYMIED.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

Dear Sir.—I have been reading with great interest your Bulletin No. 2 giving articles and letters bearing on labour matters, a copy of which should be in the hands of every planter in Southern India.

With the usual lack of interest however in anything outside the boundaries of our own Estates, its very existence, except to a few, is probably, unknown.

My chief reason for writing this letter was not on account of the above mentioned Bulletin, but in your introduction, 'you mention several points which more or less touch on my subject.

I should first of all like to make a few comments on these.

In para. 2 you say "It is very doubtful if Legislation is required. Would it not be better for the community to work out its own salvation and only ask the Government to countenance a scheme which has received the general support of the U. P. A. S. I.?"

I sincerely wish I could agree with you in this, but I am afraid that it has been too clearly proved for years past, that combination amongst the Planting Community of Southern India is beyond hope, and nothing short of Government Legislation will bring it to its senses.

As a proof of this, we have only to look at the results of the various Labour Committees appointed by the U. P. A. S. I. during the last four or five years.

The members of these Committees have worked hard, and various schemes have been brought forward, but their labours have been all in vain and wasted for one reason only, and that is want of combination.

PARA. 3.—"The Registration Scheme of Finger Prints which has for some time been before the District Associations, appears too costly for the Association to take up and put into practice on its own account and has not elicited useful suggestions to aid the sub-committee in solving this question."

In this you draw attention to the Registration Scheme of Finger Prints which is one of several schemes recently proposed.

Registration of some sort is a step in the right direction, but what good will it be to us, unless we have some law to enforce the Estate or Company to give up twice advanced or bolted coolies when they have been traced and identified.

PARA. 4.—You say here that "The Malay States appear to have solved the question of labour for themselves and that the two prospectuses published should give much fruit for reflection." In this I quite agree with you, and if the Planters of Southern India were not all asleep or too intent their own individual interests, they would have recognized the result of their present policy long ago.

In the same para, you go on to say that "Ceylon is following suit, and the whole matter resolves itself into one of competition, and inducements to the Indian labourer to emigrate" and I think the enclosed advertisements, which were my real reason for this letter, amply bear this out.

One of these fills about a third of a page of the Times of Ceylon and appeared for some days. The cost of this alone must have been considerable, and naturally would not have been incurred unless the Superintendent had some legal remedy.

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and FOUR CHILDREN from ages 2 to 6.

MADULKELLE.

(Anglo-Ceylon & General Estates Co., Ltd.)

The head lines of the advertisement must make the planters of South India smile.

Over here, it seems to be, everyone for himself and the devil take the hindmost, and a very good example of this is quoted in the minutes of the last Nilgiri Planters' Association, but in this particular case it only happened to be 5 coolles whereas I have heard cases of 30 to 50 coolles being taken very much the same way. It is to be hoped the perpetrator in this Nilgiri case may be shown up, but beyond this, the sufferer has no redress and the culprit smiles up his sleeve.

To go into the details of the advertisement, we find an accurate description not only of the Kangany but every individual cooly from which they should be easily traced, and when as in Ceylon you have legal remedy for redress, a scheme of this sort is essential, but as we are situated in Southern India at present, expenditure on registration schemes in my opinion is simply a waste of time and money.

PARA. 5.—In this you go on to warn the South Indian Planter of the hedo-Ceylon Railway will be to Ceylon recruiting, but I think you have hit the right nail on the head when you recommend more advertising. Here we are in Southern India the home of the coolies who work practically all the coffee, tea and rubber plantations in the East, and we allow all those outside our own country to flood our labour Districts with posters and distribute broadcast, leafiets, describing the advantages to be gained by coolies leaving their own country to work on these Estates.

What are we doing in Southern India? Absolutely nothing, but burrying on our own ruin. We sit still, not because we are content, but because of petty jealousies. We can't agree amongst ourselves.

Ceylon played this game, because she thought she was close enough to her labour never to run short, and when it was too late went for legislation, and has landed in a quagmire of coast advances from which she can never recover without a tremendous loss, which will open the eyes of many. Directors and unsuspecting Share-holders some day.

South India is rapidly drifting in the same direction, but there is still time for escape, if we can only pull together. As you rightly say at the conclusion of Para, 4, the whole matter resolves itself into one of competition and inducements to the Indian labour to emigrate,

After all this rigmarole, you will no doubt ask me what I propose as a remedy.

Firstly, I would advise advertisement. Nothing succeeds now a days without advertisement, and we must wake up and march with the times.  $*_{\{i,j\}}$ 

Any one can make a pill, and provided it has nothing injurious in it, you may recommend it to cure every disease under the sun, and provided it is sufficiently advertised it is 100 to 1 on its sale proving a success.

In Southern India we have no fear of putting anything injurious in our cure.

We have conditions equal to anything that can be offered elsewhere.

The cooly is near his home and is never bound for more than 9 months to a year, and with out low capital cost per acre compared with the majority of Estates in other planting countries, we should be able to offer the same if not better inducements to the cooly to work for us instead of emigrating.

I would flood the country with advertisements through the U. P. A. S. I. giving without favour a description of, and conditions prevailing in, each District.

It will cost money, but I am confident it will pay us and carry us on for a time,

My second recommendation I know will bring down on me a storm of abuse, but I can see nothing else for it but Government Legislation.

We have already proved ourselves incapable of "working out our own salvation" as you put it in your introduction to your labour Bulletin.

Wherever you have active and keen competion in whatever business you like to mention, there is the temptation to run off the straight, and which infortunately has been proved to exist amongst the planters of Southern India, and in my opinion nothing short of Government interference will stop it. That legislation will come sooner of later, there is little doubt, as the Government of Madras and the Native States in South India also feel the pinch in getting labour for the Public Works and will be forced to move in the matter before long.

I think the Nilgiri Association's proposal of a commission to go into the labout matter a good one, but it should consist of representatives of all employees of labour European, India and Government, if it is to do any good.

I must apologise for taking up so much of your valuable space, but the matter is of such vital importance to our industry, and the yearly meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. is shortly to take place, when labour matters will no doubt occupy a considerable part of its time, I must ask your indulgence.

Yours faithfully, SOUTH INDIA.

Bangalore, 23rd July, 1913.

#### A NEW METHOD OF FERTILIZING THE SOIL.

w method of applying chemical fertilizer to fruit trees is proposed by M. Cadoret, and he finds that it gives much better results in experiments which he has been making in France. The usual method is to simply spread or strew the chemical fertilizer on the ground at a certain distance around the trunk of the tree, but it is found that this has a disadvantage in that the fertilizing principles do not penetrate into the ground as rapidly as might be supposed, so that their action is felt but slowly. M. Cadoret finds that a much better plan is to use an iron rod having an expanded part near the point so as to make rather large holes in the ground. Such holes are filled with the fertilizer which consists of a properly prepared mixture using some precautions. The fertilizer, in order to prevent damage to the roots from the caustic action, should be mixed with crumbled earth beforehand. From four tomix holes should be used, deep enough so as to contain all the fertilizer required for the tree in question, and the holes are best placed about 12 inches from the trunk. The depth of the holes is increased to keep pace with the growth of the tree. According to M. Cadoret, the above method gives remarkable results, and he finds that peach, apricot, cherry, and other trees of five years' growth are as well developed as other trees of twelve years. The method has the advantage that it does not imply extra cost. Two men can treat eighty trees a day in this way.

#### TEA.

#### The Root Diseases.

The Times of Ceylon publishes an interview with Mr. Petch, the Ceylon Government Mycologist, on the subject of a root disease of Tea known to science as Botryodiplodia theobromae. There is nothing in this interview which has not been published before, but it may be of interest to Tea and Rubber planters to refresh their memories about this disease. Mr. Petch is reported to have said that they had known B. theobromae for a good many years, more especially in the low-country. It was discovered after pruning, Of course the disease attacked the bushes some time previous to pruning, but it, apparently, was able to exist in a more or less dormant condition. It was also to be found at other times.

Speaking of the spread of the disease. Mr. Petch said that it had become rather extensive in one or two cases where Albissia trees had been cut down and the stumps left in the ground. "It is a very common fungus," added Mr. Petch, "which, beginning on Albissia stumps, spreads to tea. It will also grows on dead rubber and cacao, cocoanut, dadap, and the papaw, but, as far as we know, it only causes root disease in tea and in rubber, where it continues the 'die-back,' which is initiated by another fungus (Glacosporium Alborubrum). It differs from the other well-known root disease of tea, Rossellinia, in that it spreads, practically, only by means of spores. There are no underground threads."

Asked as to whether the disease might be considered serious, Mr. Petch remarked that it was thought likely that the disease might be serious in the low-country some years ago, because the fungus developed on buried prunings, in the low-country districts at any rate, and several estates which made a practice of burying prunings every few years, were badly attacked by the disease. The diseased bushes, said Mr. Petch, should be burned because they

## PRODUCED MILLIONS OF SPORES

as they dried up. When a tea bush was killed by the disease, the roots were completely filled with invocelium of the fungus. Mr. Petch recommends that the dead bushes should be uprooted and burnt without delay, and any prunings lying about the place, should be raked up and similarly destroyed; while the affected soil should be forked over with quickline.

### CONNECTION WITH RUBBER.

As regards R. theobromae attacking rubber, Mr. Petch makes reference to it in his valuable work on "The Physiology and Diseases of Hevea Braziliensis." After the death of the leading shoot from "Die-back," B. theobromae, which fives on dead Hevea and can attack living stems through wounds, enters the dead shoot and grows downwards in the woody stem, gradually killing it down to the base. The death of such shoots may be followed by the death of the whole tree from the attacks of R. theobromae. In the cases examined by Mr. Petch the fungus had entered the tree after the shoots had been killed by "Die-back," not after they had been killed by wind or climatic conditions. It is also reassuring to learn, that no case has yet been recorded in which it has attacked the exposed cortex of the tapping cuts. B. theobromae, Mr. Petch states, is an

### EXTREMELY WIDE-SPREAD FUNGUS,

and it would be impossible to eradicate it, but there is no need to encourage it by neglecting to destroy dead stems and bushes killed by it.

### COFFEE

## Sentenced to Death for Selling Coffee.

We often hear the statement made that it is impossible to increase the consumption of coffee in this country, but the odds against the enterprising grocer who determines to push the sales of the fragrant berry'are small compared to those which had so be overcome by the first keepers of coffee houses in Turkey. When coffee was first introduced to that country it became so popular that the coffee houses detracted from the attendance at mosques, and became the meeting places of political aghators, so that Church and State united in condemning the beverage, and at one time the penalty for offering coffee for sale was death. In spite of these handicaps, the coffee merchants won, and to day coffee houses are the most prominent features of a Turkish town.

#### A writer in Scribner's Magazine says :-

"For one who has ever walked the streets of a Turkish town it is almost impossible to imgaine them without coffee-houses. Yet, those resorts are of comparative recency among the Turks, and they were not acclimated without bitter opposition. While the properties of the coffeeherry are supposed to have been discovered or rediscovered by an Arab dervish in the thirteenth century, they were unknown in Constantinople until three hundred years later. The first coffee-house was opened there in 1554 by one Shemsi, a native of Aleppo. He returned to Syria three years later, taking with him five thousand ducats and little imagination of what uproar his successful enterprise was to cause. The beverage so quickly appreciated was as quickly looked upon by the Orthodox as insidious to the public morals-partly because it seemed to merit the recommendations of the Koran against intoxicants, partly, because it brought people together in places other than mosques. 'The black enemy of sleep and of love,' as a poet styled the Arabian berry, was variously denounced as one of the Four Elements of the World of Pleasure, one of the Four Pillars of the Tent of Lubricity, one of the Four Cushions of the Couch of Voluptuousness, and one of the Four Ministers of the Devil-the other three being tobacco. opium and wine. The name of the drug may have had something to do with the hostility it encountered. Kahveh, whence our coffee, is a slight modification of an Arabic word—literally meaning 'that which takes away the appetite'—which is one of the names of winc. The stimulating effect of coffee, however, is more than a name.'

In Greece also the beverage is popular, the consumption per capita being more than twice that of this country, and the Central European countries are also becoming enamoured of coffee, and the consumption is rather larger proportionately than that of the United Kingdom. A useful lesson may be drawn from our friends the Turks who popularised coffee by means of their cafés. Our experience in this country is that in suitable districts a café is nearly always a success, and that when good well-made coffee is supplied, a large trade in coffee for home use almost invariably follows. Many grocers who have no room or time to run a café of their own might do much by arrangement with some existing café or restaurant. We know of cases in which the grocer supplies freshly roasted coffee daily, and exchanges the unused portion and in consideration of this generous treatment has his name and advertisements of his coffee on the menu.—The Produce Markets' Review.